REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-7 and 8-10 are now active in this application. Of these, Claims 1 and 6 have been amended. Claims 8-10 are newly added.

Re: Drawings:

Formal drawings were submitted in applicant's response to the previous official action. Upon review of the drawing, it has been found that there is a minor error in FIGURE 2 wherein the supply voltage for the anode of Zener diode 52 was inadvertently shown as being "-50" whereas it should have been "-5.0".

Enclosed is a proposed drawing correction wherein, as marked in red ink, a decimal point has been placed between the five and the zero of the negative supply voltage.

Approval of the proposed drawing correction is respectfully requested.

Re: Claim amendments:

Independent Claims 1 and 6 have been amended to more clearly setforth distinctions of the present invention not shown or suggested in the prior art. Specifically, each has been amended to include the limitation that the recited means each comprise "...voltage level translating..." means.

The voltage level translating means (e.g., Zener diodes 50 and 52) are critical to meeting the object of applicant's invention of permitting "...an integrated circuit having a predetermined maximum voltage rating to be operated with a split level power supply having a power supply voltage greater than the voltage rating" of the integrated circuit. (see, for example, page 2, lines 24 to 32, of the specification).

The prior art cited does not give any hint as to the novel problem to which the present invention is directed nor does the prior art give any suggestion as to applicant's novel solution. Scofield et al. (Fig.9) employs op-amps fed directly from supplies V+ and V-, there are no voltage translators shown or suggested, and, importantly, there is no suggestion of any reason at all to provide such translators.

In view of the foregoing, amended independent claims 1 and 6 as well as claims 3-6 and 7 dependent on claim 1 are believed to be clearly allowable and such favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Newly Added Claims:

New claims 8 and 9 dependent from amended independent claims 1 and 6, respectfully and are allowable at least for the same reasons. These claims are allowable on their own merits as well as including further features of the invention not shown or suggested in the prior art. Specifically these claims include the limitations that:

(i) the amplifier has a predetermined maximum voltage,

(ii) the split level supply has a voltage greater than the maximum voltage of the amplifier,

(iii) the two translating means are Zener diodes and

(iv) the Zener voltages are selected to enable operation of the IC within the maximum rating when powered by the split level supply.

These features are shown, for example, in Fig. 2 of the drawing and described in the summary of the invention (page 2 lines 24-31) and in the description of Fig. 2, for example, at page 5 line 20 through page 6 line 32. None of these four (4) features are suggested in the prior art. Accordingly, consideration and allowance of newly added dependent claims 8 and 9 is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

Newly added independent claim 10 is presented for the examiner's consideration. This claim is similar to amended claims 1 and 6 in that it includes the limitations regarding the voltage translation Zeners discussed above (features (i) - (iv)) which clearly patentably distinguish over the prior art. Claim 10, does not include, however, the limitations of claims 1 and 6 regarding DC isolation and the signal load. Claim 10 is submitted to be clearly allowable for the reasons discussed above and such favorable action is respectfully requested.

With this amendment, the number of indep ndent claims and the total number of claims is not greater than those to which applicant is entitled for the original filing fee. Accordingly, no additional fee is deemed necessary with regard to amendment of the claims.

In view of the foregoing, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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6/7/02
Date Deposited

Frederick A. Wein, Reg. No. 27,168

ENCLOSURES: Proposed drawing correction.

"Marked up" of amended claims:

1. (Twice Amended) A voltage level translator for operating an operational amplifier integrated circuit designed for operation with a single ended power supply, to operate with a split level power supply having a center tapped ground, comprising:

first voltage level translating means for connecting a first polarity power supply terminal of the operational amplifier integrated circuit to a first polarity of the power supply,

second voltage level translating means for connecting a second polarity power supply terminal of the operational amplifier integrated circuit to a second polarity of the split level power supply,

means for connecting a signal input terminal of the operational amplifier to a center tapped ground of the split level power supply and:

wherein another signal input terminal of the operational amplifier is coupled to a signal source referenced to ground without any DC isolation capacitors connected in series with the amplifier and the output terminal of the operational amplifier is coupled to a signal load referenced to ground without any DC isolation capacitors connected in series with the amplifier.

6. (Twice Amended) A voltage level translator for operating an operational amplifier integrated circuit designed for operation with a single ended power supply, to operate with a split level power supply having a center tapped ground, comprising:

first voltage level translating means for connecting a first polarity power supply terminal of the operational amplifier integrated circuit to a first polarity of the power supply,

second voltage level translating means for connecting a second polarity power supply terminal of the operational amplifier integrated circuit to a second polarity of the split level power supply, and

means for connecting a signal input terminal of the operational amplifier to a center tapped ground of the split level power supply.

wherein the split level power supply having a center tapped ground also provides power to other circuits performing other functions and:

wherein the amplifier includes an output load comprising an earphone and the other circuits performing other functions is a DVD player.